

Palm civet sighted in Satkosia tiger reserve

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In news- An albino common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphrodites*) was sighted in Satkosia Tiger Reserve (STR) in Odisha after 129 years. It was last sighted in 1891.

About Palm civet-

- The common palm civet is a small mammal belonging to the **family Viverridae**.
- It can be **found in Southern and Southeastern Asia**.
- Their long, stocky body is covered with coarse, shaggy hair that is usually grey in colour.
- It is **both terrestrial and arboreal**, and shows nocturnal activity.
- IUCN status- **Least Concern**
- It is listed on **CITES Appendix III**.
- Asian palm civets are claimed to be the **carrier that transmitted SARS from horseshoe bats to humans**.
- It is an omnivore feeding foremost on fruits such as berries and pulpy fruits.
- It thus helps to maintain tropical forest ecosystems via **seed dispersal**.
- It also feeds on palm flower sap, which when fermented becomes palm wine, a sweet liquor ("toddy"), hence it is called the **toddy cat**.
- In Indonesia, it is threatened by poaching and illegal wildlife trade for the increasing production of **'Kopi luwak'**, a **form of coffee that involves ingestion and excretion of the beans by the animal**.

About Satkosia Tiger Reserve-

- It is a tiger reserve located in the Angul district of Odisha, India.

- Satkosia Tiger Reserve was designated in 2007, and comprises the **Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary** and the adjacent **Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- **Mahanadi River** passes through it in the **Eastern Highlands moist deciduous forests ecoregion**.
- The major plant communities are mixed deciduous forests including **Sal** and riverine forest.
- Mammals found include the leopard, indian wild dog or the (dhole), wild boars , striped hyena, sloth bear, leopard cat and the jungle cat, Asian elephant, Spotted deer, sambar deer, barking deer and langurs.
- The reptiles here include the Mugger Crocodile and **Gharials, Indian Python**.
- The **Indian giant squirrel** is also found here.

As of April 2021, **only one female tiger is found** here